

## Rainbow Day



Today has marked Rainbow Day across our Trust and children were encouraged to wear their favourite colours to celebrate. Today was an opportunity for us to reflect upon our similarities and differences so that all our children learn to understand that there are people in the community and wider world with characteristics similar and different to their own.

The rainbow has been a popular symbol of hope and inclusion, used recently to symbolise peace, support for the NHS, the cooperative movement and the LGBTQ+ community.

Children thought today about equality and when people may be treated unfavourably – their understanding, sensibility and strong sense of ethics was remarkable and delightful to see. As a school, we are proudly inclusive and welcome all members of our community, regardless of any characteristics, and will continue to do so, well beyond today's celebrations.



### Stars of the Week

**Tegan** – *Flourishing* in Maths

**James** – *Flourishing* in all areas of his learning

**Alistair** – *Flourishing* in reading and comprehension

**Arabella** – Showing *ambition* in all learning, especially Maths

**Team Points:** Oak

## Leadership Plan

We were pleased to be able to share the leadership overview for the Moorland Hub earlier in the week. As communicated, Mr Hill will remain as Hub Principal with Mrs Lammas taking the role of Lead Teacher (interim).

We are very excited about having a more robust and deeper leadership team for the school and hub with stronger capacity for shared practices. It also provides more opportunity for collaborative working with Boasley, Northlew and Milton Abbot, much like we have with Lydford this year.

Final classroom teaching positions will be communicated early next week.

## KS1 Moderation and Assessments



At this time of year we complete a number of standardised assessments which we must report to the Department for Education. These include measuring the Early Learning Goals, Year 1 Phonics screening, KS1 Standardised Tests, Year 4 Multiplication check and KS2 Standardised tests. Well done to all the children who have completed these recently. Results for those already returned have been very positive and we are proud of our children's achievements. Families will receive their child's results when

they are released, checked and any moderation completed.

Mrs Lammas also completed a KS1 English moderation this week with an external moderator. We were delighted that the external moderator was very positive about Mrs Lammas's judgements and commented how well we know our children, their progress, learning, and next steps.



## FoBS Rounders Evening

A reminder that Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June is the FoBS rounders evening to be held at the Cricket Club from 5.30-7.30pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Y4/5 Residential

We are very much looking forward to our Year 4/5 residential at Menadue, Cornwall, between Monday and Wednesday next week. Please ensure your child is at Simmons Park car park for 09.00 on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June. School staff will be waiting to greet you and you are free to leave as soon as your child has been handed over.

The kit list has been shared; please make sure you have clothes appropriate for the weather – sun cream, hats and raincoats! Don't forget your swimmers, towel and beach clothes.

Any medicines must be accompanied by a medicine administration form, signed by a parent or carer. These must be passed to your school adult.

**In a change from our original message, children will need a packed lunch on Monday.**



We look forward to a great few days!

\*Year 6 children will join Mrs Sharland and Mrs Harris in Snowy Owls during the residential, with work set by Mrs Reid \*

\*Due to accompanying children at the residential, Mrs Reid's Athletics Club next Monday has been cancelled. It will resume the following week\*

## Year 6 Taster Day



Year 6 students planning to attend Okehampton College in September are having a Taster Day on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June. Unfortunately the College is unable to provide transport, so parents need to take the students in themselves. Please drop students in the main drive between 8.30am and 8.40am, where College staff will direct them to the Octagon and at the end of the day, pick them up from the Mill Road Car Park at 3.00pm.

If you wish your child to walk home unaccompanied at the end of the day, please ensure they have a note giving your permission. No student will be allowed to walk home unaccompanied without your written permission. The students should wear their Bridestowe School uniform and have their Primary School PE kit. They will also need a pencil case equipped with pen, pencil, ruler, rubber and pencil sharpener. Please provide your child with a packed lunch and snacks for the day and a drinks bottle that they can refill in school if required. A full day of lessons is lined up for them to take part in and we hope they all have an enjoyable visit.

## Read to a Dog

Okehampton Library are starting new 'Read to a Dog' sessions with 'Rafa' on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July, to help and encourage children and teenagers to read. Rafa has been assessed by and is registered with Pets as Therapy (PAT). *Why Read to a Dog?* – Dogs are amazing listeners, they are non-judgemental, give unconditional acceptance, help increase relaxation and lower blood pressure, do not criticise, allow children to proceed at their own pace, provide confidence and a sense of comfort and security. All children can benefit from this activity and are welcome, however, it is particularly beneficial to those children who find reading challenging, are worried about reading aloud in front of others, or lack self-confidence and self-esteem. Research undertaken in the USA, where there are many dogs (known as the READ dogs) who help children with reading, has proved that children who read to these dogs show an increase in reading levels, word recognition, a higher desire to read and write, and an increase in intra and interpersonal skills among the children they mix with. Each reading session lasts up to 15 minutes, depending on the age and ability of the child. The session consists of the library dog (Rafa), his owner, the child (the reader) and their parent/carer. The session will take part in a quiet corner of the library and there will be some comfy cushions for the child to use and settle down to read.

## Words of the Week

In order to develop the children's vocabulary, each class teacher chooses one word to discuss and model using in class with their children. Here are next week's words:-

Owlets - seed

Tawny Owls - confidence

Snowy Owls - decrepit

Barn Owls - sobering

Libraries Unlimited

# Read to Rafa

**Mondays**  
**15:45-16:45**

Does your child struggle with reading or need a confidence boost?

Why not book them into a session to read to Rafa?  
He loves to hear children read!

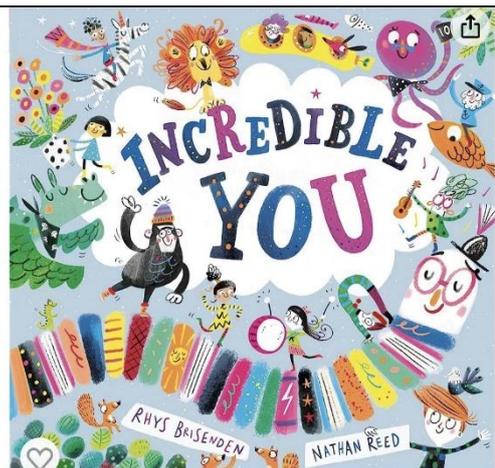
For further details contact Okehampton Library  
01837 52805  
okehampton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk.  
Booking is essential.

Libraries Unlimited is a registered charity 1170092  
To donate, please visit [librariesunlimited.org.uk](http://librariesunlimited.org.uk)

Supported by Devon County Council and TORBAY COUNCIL



## Book Review by Mrs Davies



*Incredible You* by Rhys Brisenden and Nathan Reed

This vibrant book full of colour and rhyme celebrates the incredible person you are. Ever had a bad day and wish you could be someone else? This book shows us all the wonderful things we can do, in a fun and engaging way.

This is a joyous book to share with your family.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7PEAQeiQ0Sc>

## Time to Talk

As part of our school focus on getting children talking and improving their Oracy, we have a topical, weekly question and picture for you to discuss as a family:-



Between September and March, 50 seal pups have been helped by the Cornish Seal Sanctuary with 43 being released back into the wild.

**Why do some seal pups need to be rescued and what can cause injuries to them?**

After your discussion, watch **Nemo's** happy release back into the sea in 2022.

[https://www.sealsanctuary.co.uk/html/sealreleasevide\\_o12012022cssact.html](https://www.sealsanctuary.co.uk/html/sealreleasevide_o12012022cssact.html)

## Next week

Monday	Y4/5 Residential *Mindfulness Club 3.15-4.00pm; NO ATHLETICS CLUB
Tuesday	Y4/5 Residential Y6 Holsworthy College Transition Day September Intake Transition Afternoon, 1.15-3.05pm NO PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB
Wednesday	Y4/5 Residential Y6 Holsworthy College Transition Day *Running Club 3.15-4.00pm
Thursday	Y6 Okehampton College Taster Day *Cheerleading Club 3.15-4.15pm; *Cricket Club 3.15-4.15pm
Friday	Football Workshop

\*Your child must be booked into after-school clubs via School Gateway in order to take part

# Diary Dates

## July

4 <sup>th</sup>	Local Heroes – Meet the Police Officer
5 <sup>th</sup>	Potential Industrial Action Sports Day and Picnic Lunch
6 <sup>th</sup>	September Intake Transition Afternoon, 1.15-3.05pm
7 <sup>th</sup>	Potential Industrial Action Open the Book Assembly Parental Book Look, 2.45pm FoBS Summer Fair, 3.30-6.00pm
10 <sup>th</sup>	September Intake Transition Afternoon, 12.00-3.05pm
12 <sup>th</sup>	Forest School, EYFS, Y1-3 KS2 Summer Performance, 1.30pm @ Methodist Chapel
13 <sup>th</sup>	September Intake Transition Afternoon, 12.00-3.05pm
14 <sup>th</sup>	Football Workshop
17 <sup>th</sup>	Forest School – EYFS, Years 4-6 Y6 Meet The Tutor Evening @ Okehampton College
18 <sup>th</sup>	September Intake Transition Day Reserve Sports Day
19 <sup>th</sup>	Circus in a Day – Whole School
21 <sup>st</sup>	Leavers' Assembly Last Day of Term

Mr A. Hill – Principal

[ahill@dmatschools.org.uk](mailto:ahill@dmatschools.org.uk)

01837 861361

Whole School Attendance

95.5%

## FAMILY SERVICE

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June  
9.30am – 10.00am

St. Bridget's Church,  
Bridestowe

*Songs with Mr. Higbee* *Activity*  
*refreshments* *Bible story*

All Ages Welcome



**Pub Walk**  
SATURDAY 22nd JULY 2023 EVENT  
BEGINS AT 2pm

Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult

**The Route**  
Register at Bridestowe Village Hall  
White Hart  
Cross Roads (pop up tent with pints and pasties)  
The Fox and Hounds  
Lydford House  
The Castle Inn  
To finish at Lydford Sporting Green for an after party

**MUSIC**

**BBQ & Bar**

**Ice Creams**

**£5 per adult**  
**£2 per child**  
**Under 5 free**  
Pushchair and dog friendly

**The after party**  
5.00pm – 11.00pm  
Can't make the walk?  
Come and join us after!  
**Free entry**  
**Evening event is cash only**

All profits to Treetops, Lydford and Bridestowe Primary Schools  
Want to help? Contact Jane on 07809747379

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AI VIRTUAL FRIENDS

Artificial intelligence – particularly in terms of how it generates natural language – has seen significant development over the last six months, with companies releasing new AI-based software or adding an AI element to existing apps (such as Snapchat, for example). One form of AI to become especially popular has been the 'AI friend' or chatbot, as children eagerly experiment with these new-found computer-generated companions. There are now numerous apps available with this 'virtual friend' functionality, with the likelihood of it being added to other successful platforms soon.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### CONTENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

AI chatbots may not always be able to recognise when content is age inappropriate or harmful and should be filtered out. So there's a possibility that children could be exposed to offensive language or explicit material while conversing with their virtual friend. The companies producing such AI solutions are also unlikely to take responsibility for any content that their algorithms generate.

### REDUCED SOCIAL CONTACT

An excessive reliance on chatbots for social interaction could potentially cause a child to begin reducing the amount of face-to-face communication they have, leading to social isolation. If young people become dependent on chatbots to provide companionship, it could very likely hinder the development of their real-life social skills.

### LACK OF SENSITIVITY

Chatbot software isn't always sophisticated enough to pick up on subtle emotional cues or recognise signs of distress in children, as most humans would. It might therefore fail to respond appropriately. AI misinterpreting what it's being told or replying insensitively to a young user who's already struggling could potentially impact a child's emotional wellbeing or exacerbate any existing emotional issues.

### UNINTENTIONAL BIAS

AI companions are only as reliable as the information they've been programmed with. The algorithms they use, therefore, may unintentionally promote bias, stereotypes or discriminatory behaviour (as many originate from the USA or the UK, for instance, they can display a distinctly western-centric worldview). This could lead to children developing skewed attitudes and behaviours.

### COGNITIVE LIMITATIONS

Although many are now undeniably advanced, AI-powered chatbots still have limitations in terms of understanding complex concepts, context and nuance. Depending heavily on chatbots to help with learning or solving problems may stunt the development of a child's own powers of critical thinking, creativity and ability to engage in open-ended discussions with other people.

### PRIVACY CONCERNS

Chatbots typically collect data about users, including personal information and conversations. This is ostensibly to improve their performance as they gradually learn about our behaviour – but many experts are warning that there may be significant risks associated with how this information is stored and used (the possibility of potential breaches or misuse by third parties, for instance).

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### CHAT ABOUT CHATBOTS

If your child is already expressing an interest in AI apps, a relaxed, natural chat should help you to discover which ones they're aware of and how they're using them (or are planning to). Discuss these options with your child and perhaps do your own research to ensure you think they're suitable. Once you're totally happy, you could sit with your young one and begin exploring AI chatbots together.

### CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If your child is keen to engage with AI chatbots, encourage them to do so in a safe environment: ideally in a shared space at home, so you can easily keep an eye and ear on their progress. Set up appropriate content filtering measures in advance – and gently remind them that you'll be close by and ready to help with any questions or concerns that may arise.

### FIND A BALANCE

Work alongside your child to establish the right balance in terms of how they might use AI-powered chatbots – and when it's appropriate. It's important to make sure that children are still getting plenty of opportunities to learn to solve problems for themselves, as well as building their interpersonal skills through face-to-face conversations with friends, family members and teachers.

### TAKE CONTROL

As with any form of app or game, when it comes to AI chatbots we'd strongly recommend that you consider employing parental controls (either on the device being used or within the software itself) to manage which apps your child can download and use. This is particularly important for younger children, who may be more at risk of being upset or frightened by inappropriate content.

### RECOGNISE THE RISKS

It's unlikely that most children will have even considered the potential risks attached to having a virtual companion. So it's probably wise to explain some of the possible hazards and challenges of AI chatbots to your child. In particular, emphasise that AI isn't a real person (however much it might sound like one) and may occasionally tell them something that isn't entirely impartial or accurate.

## Meet Our Expert

A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that we become more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.

